

ADL SCORM Assessment Guidelines

Quick Tips – Securing Assessments

OVERVIEW

Many content developers are afraid that learners could look at the source code for assessments to determine the correct answers. This quick tip provides a simple way to provide a measure of security for your assessments when they are delivered through a SCORM-conformant LMS.

USING `launch_data` TO SECURE YOUR ASSESSMENT

A SCO is typically composed of a set of static HTML and other files stored on a web server and delivered to a learner. A savvy learner may view the source for the HTML file and reverse-engineer your assessment to discover the correct answers.

A simple way to secure your assessments is to put your assessment into another HTML file and store the name of the file as SCO `launch_data`. The name of the file will only be retrieved during the running of the SCO, and a learner will not be able to discover the name of the file by viewing the HTML source files.

In your content package, you specify the name of the file using the `dataFromLMS` field:

```
<item identifier="ITEM-1" identifierref="RES-1">
  <title>Sample Assessment</title>
  <adlcp:dataFromLMS>hidden_assessment.html</adlcp:dataFromLMS>
</item>
```

Then, your SCO gets the name of the file using the `cmi.launch_data` element:

```
<frameset rows="*">
  <script language="javascript">
    var assessment_file = doGetValue( "cmi.launch_data" );

    document.write( "<frame src=\"\"
      + assessment_file
      + \"\" name=\"mainFrame\" />" );
  </script>
</frameset>
```